

# HIGH POINT CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICE





Save the  
holy day  
from the  
holiday





Secularized  
Commercialized  
Bureaucratized





# Christmas Cheer

(or **any kind** of peace and pleasure)

It is more blessed  
to give than to  
receive.





# Toward God, Neighbors and Ourselves...



Create vs. Consume  
Participate vs. Perform  
Embrace vs. Avoid



A coastal landscape with a path leading to the ocean. The path is flanked by dry, golden-brown grass and shrubs. In the background, the ocean is visible under a clear sky. Several wooden posts are visible along the path, possibly remnants of a fence or a marker.

P O I N T 1:

# Create Instead of Consume

Consumption to Devouring to Coveting

Creation to Giving to Blessing



## **Acts 20:33 – 35**

I have not **coveted** anyone's silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that **these hands** of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. In everything I did, I showed you that **by this kind of hard work we must help the weak**, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: **'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'**"



# **Covetousness consumption produces:**

- 1. Bad Secular** – Vainglory instead of Orthodoxy
- 2. Commercializes** – distempers the senses, and poisons the heart and soul
- 3. Bureaucratized** – Makes giving and helping someone else's job. Depersonalizes love.



# Blessed Giving:

1. **Sacred** – do it to please God
2. **Honor** – give to the worth in someone
3. **Service** – give with cooperative directness



A coastal landscape with a path leading to the ocean. The path is made of dirt and is flanked by dry, golden-brown grass and shrubs. In the background, the ocean is visible, and several wooden posts are stuck in the ground along the path. The text "POINT 2:" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**POINT 2:**

# **Make a Name for God**

**Rectifying the great injustice and revealing the  
great pleasure is the greatest foundational good.**



## **Matthew 6:1 – 4**

"Beware of **practicing your righteousness** before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. "When therefore you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do **in the synagogues and in the streets**, that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. "But when you give alms, **do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing** that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.



# **Last 80 years of giving:**

1. Exponentially richer, still 2% giving
2. Reversal of anonymous to marketed giving

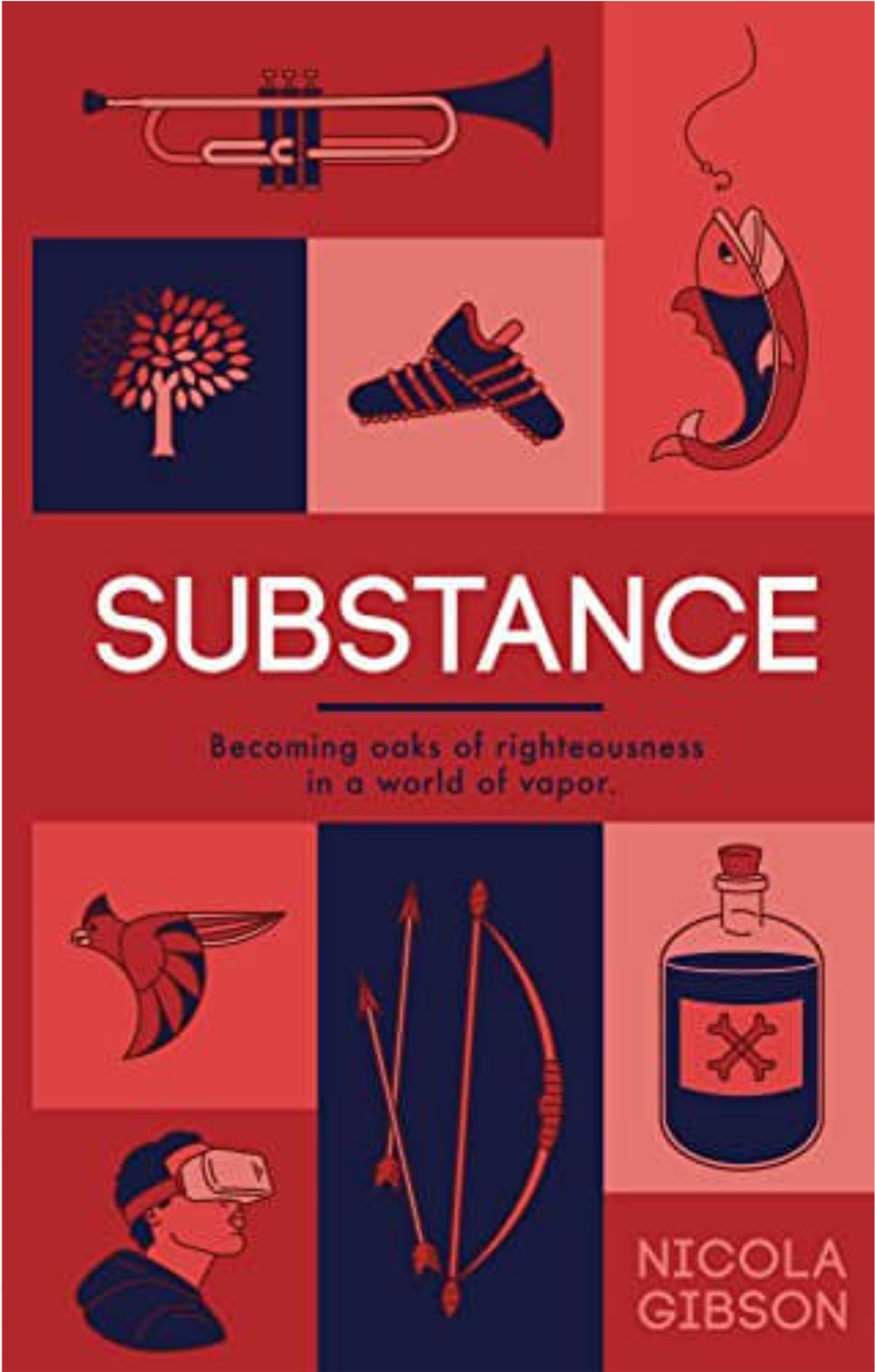
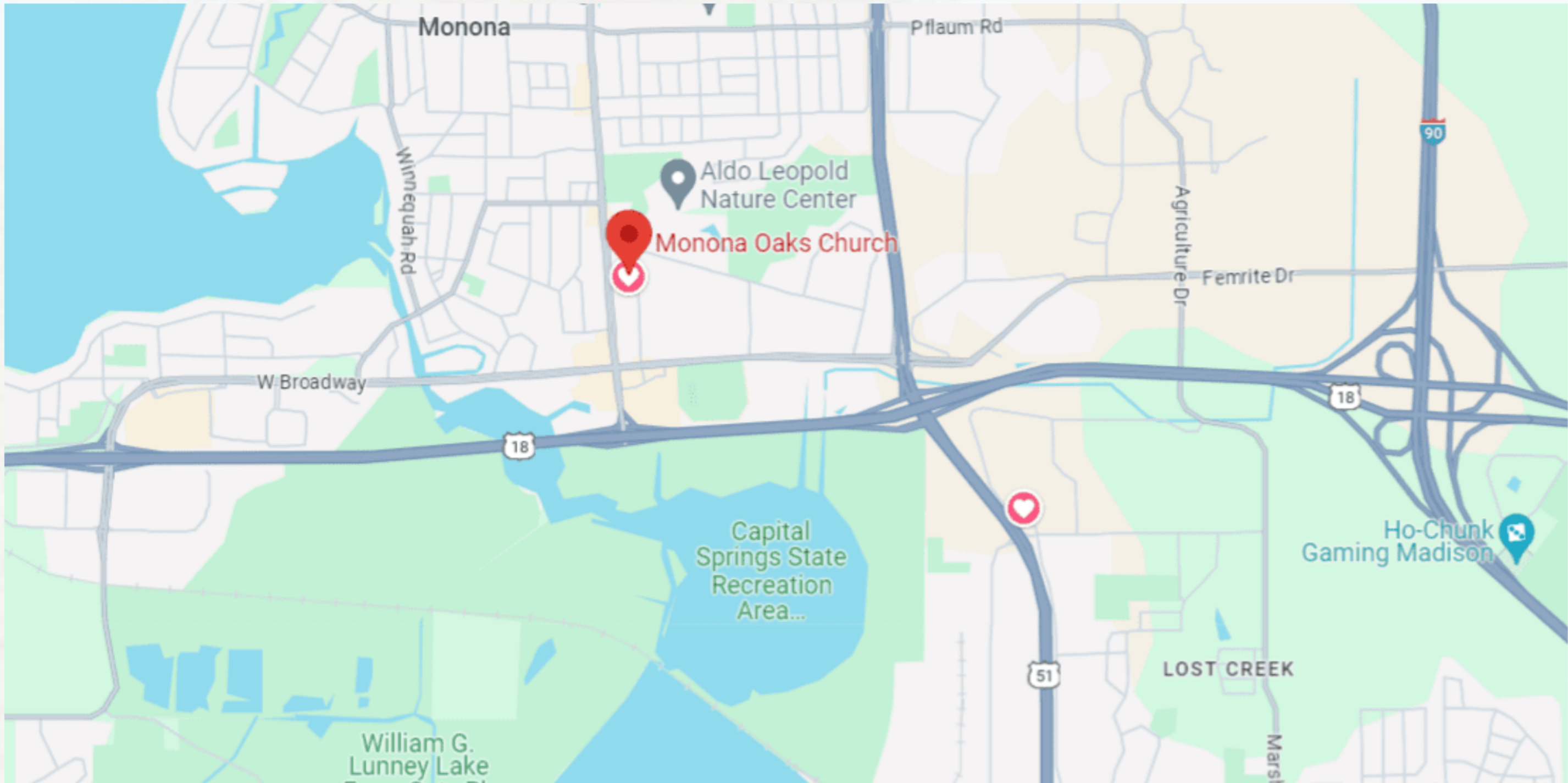
We give proportionately less, but sure want people to think we are awesome.



# What's the difference?









# Participating vs Performing

Build subsidiary institutions sacrificially—and anonymously—and you'll find yourself in the greater blessing of giving—with reward to come.



A coastal landscape with a path leading to the ocean, overlaid with text. The scene features a sandy path winding through dry, golden-brown coastal vegetation towards a blue body of water. Several wooden posts are visible along the path. The text is centered and reads: 

# POINT 3: Be Boring

**The foundation of blessing is in the normal repetitions of life. Embrace these and find blessing. Reject them and hunger forever.**



## **Matthew 13:33**

He told them still another parable:

"The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."



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# Freely giving in deep sacrifice

**Romans 12:1** Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

1. Worship God and attend to His revelation
2. Participate in his ordinances
3. Practice righteousness through obedience
4. Forgive other and love your enemies
5. Pray for others and invite prayer
6. Join fellowship and provide hospitality
7. Serving and co-laboring
8. Financial provision and investment



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